

United States Senate

August 8, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: MPDG Grant Letter of Support: Mineral County I-90 Improvements Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of the Montana Department of Transportation's (MDT) Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) grant funding application for the Mineral County I-90 Improvements Project. This project aims to reconstruct and resurface 5.7 miles of I-90 east of the Idaho-Montana border with more weather-resistant Portland Cement Concrete Pavement and replace three bridges west of Alberton, Montana. The Alberton bridges have reached the end of their service life with one bridge forecasted to degrade to serious condition as early as 2026.

I-90 represents a critical transportation route for Mineral County and the surrounding region as it is the only east-west highway in the area. When it is caused to be closed, nearby towns, like the disadvantaged communities of Alberton, Superior, St. Regis, DeBorgia, Haugan, and Saltese, become extremely isolated.

This project would address several evaluation criteria as noted in the grant description, including, but not limited to: safety, resiliency, economic impact, and overall state of good repair. The Mineral County I-90 Improvements project incorporates safety countermeasures on the roadway, would improve transportation resiliency to natural hazards while also incorporating measures to reduce wildlife collisions, create jobs and improve the overall condition of critical transportation infrastructures.

Thank you for your attention to this application. If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would also appreciate you informing my office of the eventual decision on this application.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester
United States Senator